

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 246857

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, IT, LY

SUBJECT: ITALIAN MILITARY SALES TO LIBYA

REF: ROME 17231; ROME 12493; STATE 33484

1. SALIMEI, COUNSELOR OF ITALIAN EMBASSY, CAME INTO DEPT AT HIS REQUEST ON NOVEMBER 5. AFTER EXPRESSING ITALIAN APPRECIATION FOR US SUPPORT FOR ITALIAN BID FOR SEAT ON ICAO BOARD, HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF ITALIAN MILITARY SALES TO LIBYA, SPECIFICALLY APC'S AND HELICOPTERS. SALIMEI NOTED THAT THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD RAISED AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER THE APC ISSUE WITH AMEMBASSY ROME, AND HE EMPHASIZED CONTINUING ITALIAN INTEREST IN THE HELICOPTER QUESTION.

2. DEPTOFF INFORMED SALIMEI THAT THE USG'S NEGATIVE POSITION ON THE TRANSFER OF THE APC'S TO LIBYA REMAINED
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UNCHANGED. HE REMINDED SALIMEI THAT AMONG THE PRINCIPAL

OBSTACLES TO THE THIRD-PARTY TRANSFER OF APC'S WAS THE
STIPULATION OF US LAW THAT WE CANNOT APPROVE SUCH TRANSFERS
UNLESS THE USG ITSELF WOULD TRANSFER THE ITEMS CONCERNED.
AS FOR THE HELICOPTERS, DEPTOFF TOLD SALIMEI THAT FOR THE
TIME BEING NO DECISION IS BEING MADE.

3. FYI FOR TRIPOLI: TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE,
NEITHER PRESIDENT LEONE NOR FONMIN MORO RAISED THE QUES-
TION OF ITALIAN MILITARY SALES TO LIBYA DURING THEIR
VISIT HERE IN LATE SEPTEMBER (TRIPOLI 1181).

4. FOR ROME: IN RESPONDING TO POSSIBLE FURTHER ITALIAN
QUERIES ON THIS SUBJECT IN ROME, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DRAW
ON STATE 33484. MAW

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Message Attributes

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